

Hagerstown 19th August 1839-

Dear Sir,

In obedience to your order issued, that a corps of observation should immediately proceed to those sections on the canal which produced the disturbances, I have the honor to report the return here of that corps.

The line was quiet, but great apprehensions of continual danger exist among the citizens of Old Town and its neighborhood.

The Magistrates represent the labourers as violent & lawless; in the recent conflict, none were killed but several severely wounded.

It seems to be their opinion that a stationary military force all along the line of the canal will be the only means of producing quiet and order.

I have the honor to remain Yrs &c.

To Brig^d Gen^l Williams

Jacob Hollingsworth
Capt^d Hager Town Horse Guards

P.S. Accompanying this is a Bill of Expenses of the Corps of Observation
J.H.

Annapolis August 24th 1839-

To Brigadier General Williams

Sir -

I received yesterday your letter of the 20th instant enclosing Captain Hollingsworth's report to yourself, in relation to the disturbances on the canal; which I am glad to learn were not so serious as your first communication led me to expect.

The future services of the militia, in aid of the civil authorities, will depend upon circumstances, of which, as you are near the scene of disorder, you can form a better judgment than myself.

The law of 1834, Chap^r 251, requires the aid of the militia in certain contingencies and the commanding officers are under the same obligation to comply with the requisition of three justices of the peace, as to obey the orders of the executive. In the case, which has occurred on the canal, it makes no difference, so far as regards the pay of the militia, whether they are called out by order of the Governor, or upon the requisition of the justices of the peace. The 34th section of the act referred to provides that in cases where a militia man may be draughted or shall have volunteered to perform a tour of duty under this act, he shall